SUBJECTS.

38. The opening of an Agricultural Farm at Alwaye. Grazing grounds for cattle should be set apart on a large scale and the appointment of an officer at Alwaye to look after the advancement of agriculture and the condition of the cattle for the taluks of Kunnathnad, Alengad and Parur, is necessary.

Mr. Kunju Kadir Pillai (Member, Alengad taluk) spoke on the backward condition of the Alengad ryots in the matter of cultivation and the necessity for instruction in agriculture on scientific methods and for using improved machines. To teach them the improved system of agriculture, the Member advocated the establishment of an Agricultural Demonstration Farm somewhere along the banks of the Alwaye river, where experimental gardens for the growth of the different varieties of paddy, sugarcane, cholam &c., might be conveniently established and practical tuition given to the ryots. To aid cultivation, the Member urged the necessity of sinking wells and tanks and repairing the already existing canals for irrigating the places where cultivation suffered for want of water, and of constructing anicuts, wherever possible, with a view to prevent the failure of crops from submergence, and of establishing a manure depot for supplying manure to the ryots. Then he referred to the unsatisfactory condition of the cattle and the want of pasture. The ryots did not know cattle farming. As good cattle was one of the essential requisites for agriculture, pasture lands should be set apart and a Veterinary Inspector appointed in the taluks of Alengad and Parur to improve the cattle of the taluk. He also suggested the holding of Agricultural Exhibitions and Cattle Shows at Alwaye every year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

39. The urgent need for an Agricultural Demonstration Farm for Nanjinad.

Mr. N. Arumugaperumal Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the methods of cultivation adopted by the Nanjinadians were primitive and unwholesome, and the people were so ignorant and incapable of understanding the improved methods of agriculture, that there was no use of demonstrating to the ryots the use of steam ploughs and other scientific apparatus. No initiative could be expected from them. In his opinion, the only effective method was to open Demonstrative Farms, say at Nagercoil, Vadaseri and at Boothapandy or Thazhakudi, to convince the ryots, by facts and figures, of the benefit of adopting improved methods in cultivation. The organization and holding of Industrial and Agricultural Exhibitions in important centres of agriculture, with Cattle Shows attached to them, would prove to be of great use. Another inducement would be to get the sons of the ryots trained in Agricultural Institutions either in British India or in foreign countries under Government scholarships. The Member further urged the necessity of organizing the Veterinary Department on a more useful basis, as the existing breed of cattle was the poorest imaginable, and the question of cattle breeding and protection had not at all received any attention at the hands of the ryots.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly